The curious incident of the dog in the night-time By: Mark Haddon

Christopher, a fifteen-year-old boy with [Asperger Syndrome](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asperger_Syndrome), lives with his father; his mother supposedly died two years ago. He discovers the dead body of Wellington, the house next door's dog, speared by a [garden fork](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Garden_fork). Mrs. Shears, Wellington's owner, calls the police, and Christopher comes under suspicion. When a policeman touches him, he hits the policeman, and is arrested, then released with a caution. He decides to investigate the dog's death, despite his father's orders to stay out of other people's business. However, he is severely limited by his fears and difficulties when interpreting the world around him. Throughout his adventures, Christopher records his experiences in a book: a "murder mystery novel". During his investigation, Christopher meets people whom he has never before encountered, even though they live on the same street, including the elderly Mrs. Alexander, who informs Christopher that his mother had an affair with Mr. Shears.

Ed, his father, discovers the book and confiscates it from Christopher, after a brief fight between them. While searching for the confiscated book, Christopher uncovers a trove of letters which his mother wrote to him, dated after her supposed death, which his father has also hidden. He is so thoroughly shocked by his father lying about his mother's death that he is unable to move, curls up on the bed, vomits and groans for several hours until his father returns home.

Ed realizes that Christopher has read the letters and cleans him up. He then confesses that he had indeed lied about Judy's "death" and also that it was he who killed Wellington, stating that it was a mistake resulting from his anger after a heated argument with Mrs. Shears.

Christopher, having lost all trust in his father and fearing that Ed may try to kill him since he had already killed the dog, runs away. Guided by his mother's address from the letters, he embarks on an adventurous trip to London, where his mother lives with Mr. Shears.

After a long and event-filled journey, evading policemen, and feeling ill from the [overwhelmingly large amount of information](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_overload) and stimuli from the trains and crowds around him, he finally finds his way to his mother and Mr. Shears' home, and waits outside until they arrive.

His mother, Judy, is delighted that Christopher has come to her; she cannot believe that Ed would tell Christopher that she was dead. Mr. Shears doesn't want Christopher living with them and never did. Moreover, very soon after arriving, Christopher wants to return to Swindon in order to take his mathematics A-level. His mother leaves Mr. Shears, their relationship having broken down because of the conflict over Christopher.

She then moves into a rented room in Swindon, and after an argument with Ed, agrees to let Ed meet Christopher for daily brief visits. However, at this stage, Christopher remains terrified of his father and makes repeated attempts to prevent him from talking. He hopes Ed will be imprisoned for killing Wellington. The story ends with Ed getting Christopher a pet dog, which he names Sandy after her color, because Toby, Christopher's pet rat, had died, and promising that he will rebuild trust with Christopher slowly, "no matter how long it takes". Christopher asserts that he will take further [A-level](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A-level) exams and attend university. He completes his first mathematics A-level with top grades and, despite previously wanting to be an astronaut; his ultimate goal is to become a scientist.

The book closes with Christopher optimistic about his future, having solved the mystery of the murdered dog, gone to London on his own, found his mother, written a book, and got an A in his A-level math exam.

Here is a basic break down of the characters to reference when writing the report that I found.

* **Christopher John Francis Boone**: The [protagonist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protagonist) of the novel, who investigates the murder of Mrs. Shears' poodle.
* **Ed Boone**: Christopher's father, a boiler engineer. Up to the beginning of the story, he has been living with Christopher as a single parent for two years. He is usually very patient and understanding with Christopher, but gradually becomes uncomfortable with his son's investigation.
* **Judy Boone**: Christopher's mother. Early in the book, Christopher writes that she died of a heart attack two years before the book's events. Not much of an initial description is given, but Christopher describes more about her as the story proceeds.
* **Siobhan**: Christopher's Para-professional, friend, and mentor. She teaches him how society works and how to behave within its complex guidelines.
* **Mr. Jeavons**: the psychologist at Christopher's school
* **Roger Shears (Mr. Shears)**: One of the neighbors who lived near the Boones, but has left his wife before the story begins.
* **Eileen Shears (Mrs. Shears)**: Mr. Shears's wife, who attempts to console Ed for a time after Christopher learns of his mother's death.
* **Mrs. Alexander**: an old lady, who is one of Christopher's neighbors, who offers information to help Christopher's investigation regarding his parents and both the Shearses.
* **Wellington**: Mrs. Shears' large black poodle, which Christopher finds dead in her front yard.
* **Reverend Peters**: the reverend of Christopher's local church.
* **Rhodri**: One of Ed's friends who works with him in the boiling business.
* **Toby**: Christopher's pet rat.
* **Sandy**: A golden retriever given to Christopher towards the end of the book.